

(Tableaux particuliers des mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles, classe des gastéropodes: Tableau de la famille des Limaçons), pp. 1–94 folio, pp. 1–90 quarto.

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Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Texigryphaea pitcheri* (Morton, 1834) (Mollusca, Bivalvia)
(Case 2683; see BZN 46: 226–228)

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I would like to support the proposed conservation of the name *Gryphaea pitcheri* Morton, 1834. Although in 1970 I used the name *corrugata* for specimens that now would be called *pitcheri*, I agree that *corrugata* was inadequately described and its type locality cannot be determined so that topotypes cannot be collected. Fay also made this case in 1975. I believe that modern standards are more rigorous and that future taxonomic studies will be served better by ruling in favor of this case. This species is one of the most abundant and age-diagnostic species in this part of the Cretaceous section. It also has paleoecological significance. Stabilization of this name will permit future studies of phylogeny and paleobiogeography of this group of oysters to proceed without being sidetracked.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Proptera* Rafinesque, 1819 (Mollusca, Bivalvia)
(Case 2558; see BZN 47: 19–21)

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I wish to express my wholehearted support for the conservation of *Proptera* Rafinesque, 1819. Although the recently exhumed senior objective synonym *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818 has been used by some recent authors in faunal lists and other local studies, *Proptera* has been the overwhelming choice of authors of monographs and other taxonomically critical works.

The use of both *Proptera* and *Potamilus* for the same genus has led to confusion among non-specialists and will continue to do so. For example, one species of *Proptera* (*capax* Green, 1833) is included on our federal *List of Endangered and Threatened Species*, and disagreements among specialists about its correct name have weakened the perceived credibility of malacologists in contested cases involving the conservation of that species. Other examples could also have been cited but the point is that stable nomenclature is more than an academic convenience. The lack of stability hinders our ability to get on with much more serious biological issues, issues such as ensuring the very survival of species.

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We consider that simple priority should govern the choice of generic names in this case, and recommend against the proposed conservation of *Proptera* Rafinesque, 1819 by the suppression of *Potamilus* Rafinesque, 1818.

The generic concept for the species variously grouped with *Unio alatus* Say, 1817 has changed continuously over the last 170 years. This is a problem in unionid systematics. It is only in the past 20 years that some sort of stability in North American unionid nomenclature has arisen. This stability is based on re-examination of the types and taking the earliest available name regardless of what names may have been used for the last 30 years. Gordon (BZN 47: 20, para. 6) remarked that Morrison's 1969 action was 'solely to reintroduce an unused Rafinesque name'. What would replacing one Rafinesque name with another accomplish? Morrison was working to bring about stability in the nomenclature by trying to recognize the earliest available names, especially those overlooked or ignored but validly proposed and with priority.

A survey of the use of *Potamilus* in the recent unionid literature was made. The molluscan section of the *Zoological Record* from 1969 to 1989 was examined for articles using *Potamilus*. Only one citation was found. This paucity of citations is not truly indicative of the use of *Potamilus* in the published literature. A sample of the extensive use of *Potamilus* in this period has been given to the Commission Secretariat, consisting of 104 citations by 84 authors from the United States, Canada and Great Britain. These consist of (i) state and federal agency surveys and reports (23 references); (ii) workshops and published symposia (6 papers); (iii) reports listing state or federal endangered or threatened species in *Potamilus* (22 references); (iv) reports of unionids in archaeological contexts (11 references); (v) journal papers using *Potamilus* (31 references); (vi) unionid surveys of river basins or states (4 books); (vii) checklists, dissertations, etc. (7 references).